

Serial No. 09/993,175

HRT 288

1-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Amended) A flexible arm for holding a medical instrument, comprising:
a plurality of links each having a hole therethrough and a proximal surface and a distal surface;

an elongate element extending through the holes, wherein tensioning the elongate element locks the plurality of links in a fixed orientation; and

a screen positioned between an adjacent proximal surface and distal surface of the at least a pair of the plurality of links, the screen sized to enhance frictional engagement over a substantial area of the adjacent proximal surface and distal surface of the at least a pair of the plurality of links when the elongate element is tensioned.

21. (Previously Amended) The flexible arm of claim 49, wherein the frictional element is a screen.

22. (Previously Amended) The flexible arm of claim 20, wherein the screen is not attached to the links.

23. (Previously Amended) The flexible arm of claim 20, wherein the screen is attached to one of the links.

24-48 (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Added) A flexible arm for holding a medical instrument, comprising:

a plurality of links each having a hole therethrough;

an elongate element extending through the holes, wherein tensioning the elongate element locks the plurality of links in a fixed orientation; and

a frictional element disposed about the elongate element and between adjacent links, the frictional element enhancing frictional engagement between adjacent links when the elongate element is tensioned, wherein the frictional element is not connected to either of the adjacent links.

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50-52. (Cancelled)